

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof, for the manufacture of a composition for the prevention or inhibition of neuronal cell death in a mammal suffering from or susceptible to neurodegenerative disease, cerebral ischaemia, traumatic neuronal injury, epilepsy-associated neuronal loss, paralysis, or spinal cord injury.
2. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof, for the manufacture of a composition for the repair or regeneration of neuronal cells in a mammal.
3. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof, for the manufacture of a composition for the prevention or inhibition of apoptotic neuronal cell death.
4. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof, for the manufacture of a composition for the prevention or inhibition of neuronal cell death potentiated by inhibition or suppression of B-Raf.
5. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof, for the manufacture of a composition for preventing or inhibiting neuronal cell death by stimulating or activating B-Raf.

6. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor as claimed in claim 3 wherein the composition is for the prevention or inhibition of neuronal cell death in a mammal suffering from or susceptible to neurodegenerative disease, cerebral ischaemia, traumatic neuronal injury, epilepsy-associated neuronal loss, paralysis or spinal cord injury.

7. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor as claimed in claim 4 wherein the composition is for the prevention or inhibition of neuronal cell death in a mammal suffering from or susceptible to neurodegenerative disease, cerebral ischaemia, traumatic neuronal injury, epilepsy-associated neuronal loss, paralysis or spinal cord injury.

8. The use of a C-Raf inhibitor as claimed in claim 5 wherein the composition is for the prevention or inhibition of neuronal cell death in a mammal suffering from or susceptible to neurodegenerative disease, cerebral ischaemia, traumatic neuronal injury, epilepsy-associated neuronal loss, paralysis or spinal cord injury.

9. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the C-Raf inhibitor comprises an oxindole derivative, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof.

10 . The use of claim 9, wherein said oxindole derivative further comprises {5-Iodo-3-[(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl) methylene]-2-indolinone}.

11. The use of claim 1, wherein said C-Raf inhibitor further comprises N-[5-(3-Dimethylaminobenzamido)-2-methylphenyl]-4-hydroxybenzamide.

12. A method of preventing or inhibiting neuronal cell death in a mammal suffering from or susceptible to neurodegenerative disease, cerebral ischaemia, traumatic neuronal injury, epilepsy-associated neuronal loss, paralysis, or spinal cord injury, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a C-Raf inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof.

13. A method of repairing or regenerating neuronal cells in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a C-Raf inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof.

14 A method of preventing or inhibiting apoptotic neuronal cell death in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a C-Raf inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof.

15. The methods of claims 12 or 13 or 14, wherein said C-Raf inhibitor comprises {5-Iodo-3-[(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl) methylene]-2-indolinone}

16. A method of treating neurodegenerative disease, cerebral ischaemia, traumatic neuronal injury, epilepsy-associated neuronal loss, paralysis, or spinal cord injury,

comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a B-Raf activator or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, complex or prodrug thereof.